

World Humanitarian Summit

2017 Reporting

Recognising the change that could be brought to the lives of children around the world if visionaries from various fields worked together and to honour the commitments made at World Humanitarian Summit, Nobel Peace Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi (founder of Kailash Satyarthi Children’s Foundation and Global March Against Child Labour) proposed bringing together Nobel Laureates and world leaders to interact with and work for the right of every child to have a free, safe and educated childhood. To bring this vision to fruition, the Laureates and Leaders for Children platform was launched in 2016.



The Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit 2016, was held in New Delhi, India with the objective of building a strong moral platform for a child-friendly world by globalising compassion for ending trafficking especially its worst forms like sexual exploitation and slavery everywhere. The Summit brought together the collective leadership of 24 Laureates and Leaders, youth and over 150 eminent personalities from various walks of life – academia, business, civil society, sports, arts and culture. The Summit called the world to urgent action to allow children to remain children, all over the world.



The two-day Summit was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee. At the Summit, Nobel Laureates and world leaders met for a common and an urgent goal to unite the world through compassion for our children. Over 300 delegates from various walks of life participated in the Summit – academia, business, human rights, civil society and media. At the end of the Summit, a declaration was shared detailing the joint 'Will for Children' from all the eminent participants.

According to an excerpt from the declaration: *'We will use our voices to protect and amplify the voices of millions of girls, boys and young people- as equal citizens of today and decision makers of tomorrow; We will take actions and experiences towards concrete efforts to ending child labour in all its forms; we will use our voices to increase awareness in society.'* Read the entire '**Will for Children' [here](#).**

Speaking at the Inaugural session, the Hon'ble President of India, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee said: *"I'd like to congratulate Mr. Kailash Satyarthi and his organisation for taking this timely and thoughtful initiative. It is disappointing to see children struggling for basic needs, and being caught in child labour, child slavery and other forms of exploitation. I remember Mr Satyarthi raised an important point in his Nobel lecture- 'Children are watching our actions. They are asking us questions'. This day is celebrated every year as the Human Rights Day. I call upon this gathering to assimilate this day's significance for humanity, in spirit."*

Welcoming the gathering, 2014 Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi remarked that *"The idea of a united future has never been more urgently needed than today."* He emphasised, *"Let our intellectual and moral might arrive at its rightful conclusion, our children. We must leave behind a legacy of compassion. The dreams of our children can only be fulfilled by our collective will and strong resolve."*



In a session titled 'Let us Globalise Compassion for our Children', His Holiness Dalai Lama (Nobel Peace Laureate, 1989) spoke about the urgent need to come together for peace and sustainability of the planet. HSH Princess Charlene of Monaco narrated her experiences with marginalised children from across the world and paid tribute to Mr. Satyarthi for rescuing more than 85000 children and restoring their childhoods.

Child Participant Imtiyaz Ali, a former child slave rescued by Bachpan Bachao Andolan (organisation founded by Nobel Peace Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi in India), astounded the gathering with his questions towards the end. He exclaimed, *"We, the children have questions. And, I bring them to you. How much longer are we to wait?"*

The Summit thus aimed to be the platform to channelize the intellectual, moral and political power of the world's leaders to focus on the greatest challenge of our times: the need to protect and

educate every child. Other Laureates and Leaders at the Summit were: HRH Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein of Jordan; HRH Princess Laurentien of The Netherlands; HE Lorena Castillo de Varela, First Lady of Panama; former Prime Minister of Australia Julia Gillard; OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría; Ms Kerry Kennedy, President, Robert F Kennedy Human Rights; Mr Jeffrey Sachs, Director of Center for Sustainable Development, Earth Institute; and Mr Noriyuki Suzuki, General Secretary, ITUC Asia Pacific, among others.

Some of the Nobel Laureates included HE José Ramos-Horta, former President of Timor-Leste; MdmLeymahGbowee and MdmTawakkol Karman. Nobel Prize-winning organizations included International Labour Organization (represented by HE Mr Gilbert Hounbo), International Committee of the Red Cross (represented by Dr Helen Durham), Médecins Sans Frontières (represented by DrUnni Krishnan Karunakara) and Grameen Bank (represented by MrRatan Kumar Nag).

The two-day long Summit saw sessions and plenaries highlighting various aspects of child rights. A Town Hall session moderated by Prannoy Roy, the Executive Co-Chairperson and Co-Founder of Indian media channel NDTV, had children and young leaders pose questions to the assembled Laureates and leaders. At the culmination of the summit, a march of almost 10,000 children and young people was led by the Laureates & Leaders from the Rashtrapati Bhavan(Presidential Palace) to India Gate, which marked the launch of the historical 100 Million for 100 Million campaign of the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation.



The Summit acted as a call to urgent action for the world to allow children to enjoy their childhood years unhindered, globally. This was the first-ever event of such scale held on Indian soil. The next Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit is to be held in Jordan in 2018.

Multi-Faith Gathering for World Peace and Protecting Children from Humanitarian Emergencies

Under the leadership of Nobel Laureate and child rights activist Kailash Satyarthi, a gathering of eminent religious leaders, parliamentarians, civil society members, academicians and lawyers gathered at Raj Ghat, the mausoleum of Mahatma Gandhi, in Delhi was organised where they urged the global leaders "to give a reprieve to the children of the world from the devastation of wars and conflicts."

"Children are never responsible for any wars, conflicts or violence, yet they are its worst sufferers. In these times of extreme unrests, it becomes our collective duty to protect the millions of children who being the most vulnerable, get caught in the crossfire of bombs, bullets and chemical attacks," said Satyarthi while addressing the gathering that featured eminent faces from Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Sikh communities.



Back to School Initiative

Back to School is a global movement supported by the 100 million campaign where the decision makers across five continents of the world visit local schools to hear from students about the most marginalised children in their community and their world and encourage the youth to become change agents for a better world.

In 2017, Back to School initiative was launched in different parts of the world. Here are some stories:

Chile

In Chile, Corporación Opción were joined by regional ministerial secretary Elia Piedras. Students and young members of Corporación Opción led a session exploring the barriers that children face around the world in achieving their right to be free, safe and educated.

On 25th October, Corporación Opción held a meeting in congress where 15 young people led the Chamber of Deputies through a lesson on the rights of all children to be free, safe and educated. The event was filmed by the Congress Broadcast channel and can be watched here.

Bangladesh

On the 16th October, the Back to School Day programme was organised in Barguna district, in southern Bangladesh, where Honorable Member of Parliament Advocate Dharendra Debnath Shambhu went back to the school he attended.

UK

MPs visited schools in their constituencies throughout the UK and over 5000 students signed up to take part in the activity. Registrations are still coming through and more events will take place before the end of the year.

Sweden

Sweden had visits happening from politicians to 41 schools throughout the country, including three government ministers: Gustav Fridolin - Minister for Education, Helene Hellmark Knutsson - Minister for Higher Education and Research, Anna Ekstrom - Minister for Upper Secondary School and Adult Education and Training.

The Minister of Foreign affairs, together with the leader of the youth sector of Sweden's major political party has declared that education for all will be their priority for the coming year ([news article](#)).

USA

During the month of October 2018, schools will learning about the 100 million children currently denied their right to be free, safe and educated. Schools are supporting students to be active citizens, and how to share their passion and ideas for a better world directly to elected officials. US activities will be focused on refugee children. In 2017, many schools registered for it.

Togo

In Togo, with support from the Ministries of National Education, universities, colleges, high schools and primary schools took part in holding events across the country. You can read more about their events [here](#).

Brazil

Students, young people, decision makers and thought leaders were together discussing some of the most pressing issues facing young people in Brazil and around the world today.

Events were attended by Tania Dornellas, a social activist representing Fórum Nacional de Prevenção e Erradicação do Trabalho Infantil (FNPETI), Daniel Cara, general coordinator of the Brazilian Campaign for the Right to Education, Deputy João Carlos Bacelar Batista and Senator Lídice da Mata.

Statements by Nobel Peace Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-syria-conflict-children/syria-attack-moves-nobel-winner-to-speak-out-on-children-in-war-zones-idUSKBN17N29F>

Mr. Satyarthi also made visits to the Syrian refugee camps.